

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) Method of recording information on an optical disc comprising a first groove, a second groove adjacent to the first groove and a land separating the first groove from the second groove by a track pitch distance  $T_p$  where the grooves are filled with a dye, where the land is covered by the dye, the method comprising irradiating a region of the optical disc with a focused spot of optical energy having a radius  $R_0$  between a center of the focused spot and a point in the focused spot where the optical energy  $1/e$  times a maximum optical energy of the focused spot, characterized in that the track pitch distance  $T_p$  is less or equal to the radius  $R_0$  times five divided by three.

2. (original) Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the track pitch distance  $T_p$  is less or equal to the radius  $R_0$  times five divided by four.

3. (original) Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the track pitch distance  $T_p$  is less or equal to the radius  $R_0$  times six divided by five.

4. (original) Method as claimed in claim 1,

characterized in that the track pitch is less or equal to  $R_0$

5. (currently amended) Method as claimed in claim ~~1, 2, 3 or 4~~,

characterized in that the sections of the grooves are pits.

6. (currently amended) Method as claimed in claim ~~1, 2, 3, 4 or~~

~~5~~,

characterized in that the dye has an absorption which increases with increasing absorbed optical energy.

7. (currently amended) Method as claimed in claim ~~1, 2, 3, 4, 5~~

~~or 6~~,

characterized in that the dye has a threshold for thermal decomposition or degradation and that the threshold is reached between the center of the focused spot and a point in the focused spot where the optical energy is equal or more than  $1/e$  times the maximum optical energy of the focused spot..

8. (currently amended) Method as claimed in claim ~~1, 2, 3 or 4~~,

characterized in that

the land is covered by a layer of the dye with a thickness at least 3 times thinner than a depth of the groove.

9. (currently amended) Method as claimed in claim ~~6, 7 or 8~~, characterized in that the dye in the groove is thermally insulated from a reflection layer

10. (currently amended) Method as claimed in claim ~~1, 2, 3 or 4~~, characterized in that adjacent marks are spatially aligned to each other.

11. (original) Method as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that adjacent pits are spatially aligned to each other.

12. (original) Optical disc comprising a first groove, a second groove adjacent to the first groove and a land separating the first groove from the second groove by a track pitch distance  $T_p$  where the grooves are filled with a dye, where the land is covered by the dye, for irradiation of the optical disc with a focused spot of optical energy having a radius  $R_0$  between a center of the focused spot and a point in the focused spot where the optical energy  $1/e$  times a maximum optical energy of the focused spot, characterized in that the track pitch distance  $T_p$  is less or equal to the radius  $R_0$  times five divided by three.

13. (original) Optical disc as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the track pitch distance  $T_p$  is less or equal to the radius  $R_0$  times five divided by four.

14. (original) Optical disc as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the track pitch distance  $T_p$  is less or equal to the radius  $R_0$  times six divided by five.

15. (original) Optical disc as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the sections of the grooves are pits.

16. (currently amended) Optical disc as claimed in claim 12, ~~13,~~  
~~14 or 15,~~  
characterized in that the dye has an absorption which increases with increasing absorbed optical energy.

17. (currently amended) Optical disc as claimed in claim 12, ~~13,~~  
~~14, 15 or 16,~~  
characterized in that the dye has a threshold for thermal decomposition or degradation and that the threshold is reached between the center of the focused spot and a point in the focused

spot where the optical energy is equal or more than  $1/e$  times the maximum optical energy of the focused spot.

18. (original) Optical disc as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the land is covered by a layer of the dye with a thickness at least 3 times thinner than a depth of the groove.

19. (currently amended) Optical disc as claimed in claim 16,~~17,~~  
~~or 18,~~ characterized in that the dye in the groove is thermally insulated from a reflection layer

20. (currently amended) Optical disc as claimed in claim 12,~~13~~  
~~or 14,~~ characterized in that adjacent marks are spatially aligned to each other.

21. (original) Optical disc as claimed in claim 15, characterized in that adjacent pits are spatially aligned to each other.

22. (original) Recorder for recording optical discs comprising means for recording information on an optical disc comprising a first groove, a second groove adjacent to the first groove and a land separating the first groove from the second groove by a track pitch distance  $T_p$  where the grooves are filled with a dye, where the land is covered by the dye, the recorder comprising irradiation means for projecting a focused spot of optical energy having a radius  $R_0$  between a center of the focused spot and a point in the focused spot where the optical energy  $1/e$  times a maximum optical energy of the focused spot on the optical disc, characterized in that the radius  $R_0$  is greater than or equal to the track pitch  $T_p$  times three divided by five.

23. (original) Recorder for recording optical discs comprising means for recording information on an optical disc comprising a first groove, a second groove adjacent to the first groove and a land separating the first groove from the second groove by a track pitch distance  $T_p$  where the grooves are filled with a dye, where the land is covered by the dye, the recorder comprising irradiation means for projecting a focused spot of optical energy having a radius  $R_0$  between a center of the focused spot and a point in the focused spot where the optical energy  $1/e$  times a maximum optical energy of the focused spot on the optical disc, characterized in

that the radius  $R_0$  is greater than or equal to the track pitch  $T_p$  times four divided by five.

24. (original) Recorder for recording optical discs comprising means for recording information on an optical disc comprising a first groove, a second groove adjacent to the first groove and a land separating the first groove from the second groove by a track pitch distance  $T_p$  where the grooves are filled with a dye, where the land is covered by the dye, the recorder comprising irradiation means for projecting a focused spot of optical energy having a radius  $R_0$  between a center of the focused spot and a point in the focused spot where the optical energy  $1/e$  times a maximum optical energy of the focused spot on the optical disc, characterized in that the radius  $R_0$  is greater than or equal to the track pitch  $T_p$  times five divided by six.